

**REMARKS****A. Status**

Claims 13-16 are currently active for examination, of which claims 13-16 are independent. No amendments are made.

Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nikunen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0165939, "Nikunen"), in view of Nagamine (U.S. Patent 4,773,040, "Nagamine").

**B. Substance of Interview regarding claim 13**

On June 10, 2008, the undersigned attorney held a telephone interview with Examiner F. Ali. During the interview, the Applicants' representative asserted that the fourth element recited in the body of independent claim 13 ("**monitoring a signal of the first computer by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the transmission side connector to confirm a connection state therebetween**") was not disclosed by the applied prior art. Specifically, it was asserted that the fourth element was illustrated in a non-limiting example as shown in Figure 2 of the present application. Additionally, **Applicants asserted that Figure 4 of prior art reference Nagamine does not disclose this element.** FIG. 4 of Nagamine appears to get feedback from the receiver through data reception signal Lr. Nagamine does **not** disclose the effectively direct feedback from the transmission terminal of the transmission side connector (apparently DRIVER 207 in FIG. 4 of Nagamine) to the reception terminal of the transmission side connector (apparently RECEIVER 208 in FIG. 4 of Nagamine) as required by claim 13.

**The Examiner appeared to understand this assertion, and appeared to agree with this assertion, and suggested that Applicants provide this assertion in writing through an After-Final Response.**

Thus, Applicants submit that the above recited element of claim 13 is not disclosed by Nagamine.

Further, Nikunen does not remedy the deficiencies of Nagamine. Specifically, in FIG. 5 of Nikunen the receiver 14 is coupled to the process control network 3. The Examiner is directed to FIG. 2 of Nikunen. The system of Nikunen is based on “a data transfer protocol requiring an acknowledgement,” as stated at paragraph [0036] of Nikunen. In other words, in Nikunen the receiver 14, the transmitter 17 and the process 1 are mutually coupled according to the communication protocol.

In contrast to Nikunen, in claim 13 “the transmission terminal of the transmission side connector” is coupled to “the reception terminal of the transmission side connector” physically in a one-to-one corresponding manner without intervening the communication protocol.

Also, in FIG. 5 of Nikunen, the receiver 14, the transmitter 17 and the process 1 are mutually coupled according to the communication protocol, which requires confirming the header of a packet, and requires the data processing of the packet in order to perform the coupling.

In contrast to Nikunen, claim 13 allows (i) the link state to be confirmed while transmitting data, and allows (ii) the coupling between the transmission terminal and the reception terminal to be secured by coupling the connectors.

Thus, at a minimum, the combination of Nagamine and Nikunen fails to teach or suggest the forgoing element, and therefore claim 13 is allowable over the cited art. As stated above, the

Examiner appeared to agree with this conclusion during the telephone interview of June 10, 2008.

**C. Related Discussion regarding claims 14-16**

Similar to claim 13, independent claim 14 recites “**monitoring a signal of the first computer by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector and coupling the transmission terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector to confirm a connection state therebetween.**”

Thus, Applicants submit that independent claim 14 is allowable for at least reasons similar to claim 13.

Also similar to claim 13, independent claim 15 recites “**a signal of the first computer is monitored by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the one polarity side of the transmission side connector and coupling the transmission terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the other polarity side of the transmission side connector to confirm a connection state therebetween.**”

Thus, Applicants submit that independent claim 15 is allowable for at least reasons similar to claim 13.

Additionally similar to claim 13, independent claim 16 recites “**a signal of the first computer is monitored by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the**

**transmission side connector to the reception terminal of the transmission side connector to confirm a connection state therebetween.”**

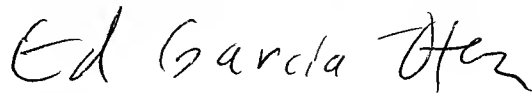
Thus, Applicants submit that independent claim 16 is allowable for at least reasons similar to claim 13.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Garcia Otero", written in a cursive style.

Eduardo Garcia-Otero  
Registration No. 56,609

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
Phone: 202.756.8000 KEG/EG:cac  
Facsimile: 202.756.8087  
**Date: June 24, 2008**

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as our correspondence address.**